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RECONSTRUCTION OF FERGANA CANAL BEGINS

Tashkent, Uzbek Regional Service, in Russian, Feb. 26, 1956, 1315 GMT--M

(Summary)

Engineer Valerian Nikolaevich Gladys, director of planning of the Uzbek Hydroprojects Economy Administration (uzgidprovodkhoz) reports that irrigation of a vast area of central Fergana is planned during the new Five Year Plan period.

The great Fergana canal (bolshoy ferganskiy kanal) fed by the Naryn River, a tributary of the Syr-Darya, flows along the southeast rim of central Fergana. The Naryn carries enough water to irrigate the entire eastern part of Fergana if the big Fergana canal were considerably widened and deepened for about 100 kilometers. A project for the reconstruction of the canal has been worked out and extensive construction work is to begin in a few days. About 2.5 million cubic meters of soil will have to be removed from the canal bed. About 40 excavators, dozens of scrapers, bulldozers, and other machines have been sent to the canal.

A particularly urgent problem and one of decisive importance in the development of stockbreeding in the Armenian SSR is the problem of the fodder supply. Possibilities for corn growing are great in our Republic. Last year we experimentally sowed 1,500 hectares of corn following the harvest of grain crops. We obtained a good harvest. As experience has shown, (serrated?) corn sowing can considerably increase the production of fodder in the Republic.

However, both viticulture and corn growing are tied with irrigation. Three canals are under construction in our republic. Each year 2, 3, or 4 million rubles are allocated for the construction of each canal.

(Editor's Note: At this point reception became unintelligible for 3 minutes due to transmitter trouble. The following passage is taken from a report on Tovmasyan's speech carried in a broadcast from Yerevan radio in Armenia to Armenians abroad on Feb. 24 at 1530 GMT, and is believed to summarize missing portion: